140. Grievances of Pulayas in the matter of habitation.

Mr. Aiyan Kali (Member, Nominated) first expressed the gratitude of the Pulaya community for the concessions allowed to them by Government in the matter of assignment of house-sites. He regretted that, though G. O. No. 5380, dated the 9th November 1918, *in re* the registry of 242 and odd acres of *puduval* lands in the Vilappil *pakuthi* in the names of the Pulayas of the Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham was issued, only about 100 acres were registered in their names. If the full extent of land ordered to be registered could not be found in that *pakuthi*, it would be enough if the remaining extent of land was assigned to them from other taluks. Even in respect of the 100 acres already registered in their names, the registry-holders, with the small exception of those who occupied the lands before the registry, were not put in possession of the lands. They were paying tax from 1094, but were unable to enter upon the lands for the above reason. Further, the poor Pulayas were not able to identify the lands registered in their names. The Member, therefore, prayed (1) that the lands registered in their names be delivered to them before the tax for 1098 was recovered from them ; (2) that lands be assigned to them from the Valiya Mala, Resurvey No. 247, in the Uzhamalakal *pakuthi*, Nedumangad taluk, to make up for the deficiency in the Vilappil *pakuthi* ; and (3) that lands in S. Nos. 3008 and 3020 in the Kaliyal *pakuthi* be also registered in their names.

141. Certain grievances of the depressed classes.

Mr. Kurumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) represented that the good intentions of the Government in ordering the registry of *puduval* lands to the members of the backward classes on concessional terms were not being fulfilled, owing to the unsympathetic attitude of the subordinate officers of the Revenue Department. He prayed that, in view to solve this difficulty, Government might be pleased to appoint a Special Puduval Officer for the purpose. The name of Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar, B. A., Tahsildar, Kartikapalli, was suggested by the Member.

As regards education, the Member requested the Government to give the backward classes full fee concession and noon-day meal. 25 boys and 25 girls should also be educated up to the School Final Class at Government cost. Primary education should be made compulsory among the backward classes, all schools should be thrown open for admission to them, and scholarships should be granted continuously irrespective of the consideration whether the pupils actually passed the annual examination at the end of any particular year.

In the matter of the entertainment of the members of the depressed classes in all departments of the public service, the Member prayed that appointments like those of watchers, sweepers, punka-pullers, drummers, policemen, chainmen, ferrymen, etc., be conferred on them.

Dewan's reply.—Your complaints relate to matters of detail. They are receiving attention and will continue to receive attention. Each complaint will have to be examined separately and orders issued.

142. Certain suggestions for the advancement of the Sambavar community including the provision of roads, wells and house sites.

Mr. K. Madhavan (Member, Nominated) began by saying that the Sambavars once formed a noble race in South India, that the ideas and sentiments that ennobled all the Dravidian races had proceeded from them and that their claim for educational concessions at the hands of the Government did not rest solely on a humanitarian basis but also on strong historic grounds.

He prayed that the following suggestions for the advancement of the Sambavars be sympathetically considered by Government :—

(1) the grant of full-fee concession to the students belonging to the community ;

(2) the institution of special scholarships for Sambavar students with a view to encourage English education ;

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(3) the exemption of the Sambavar students from the payment of examination fees, admission fees, etc., and the free supply of books and slates to them;

(4) the opening of special schools in places where Sambavars lived in large numbers;

(5) the establishment of two Central Boarding houses, one for the boys and the other for girls of the Sambavar community ;

(6) the acquisition by Government of lands in and about towns to be handed over to Sambavars as dwelling sites ;

(7) the construction of approach roads to the Sambavar villages in Edanad, Nanjinad and Shencottah in consultation with the leading members of the community ;

(8) the construction of special wells for the use of the Sambavars ;

(9) the periodical inspection of the villages of the community by the Darbar Physician and the Sanitary Commissioner ;

(10) the appointment of a special officer for the elevation of all the depressed classes in the State ;

(11) the recognition of the Sambavar Hindus and the Sambavar Christians as two separate communities in the matter of entertainment in the public service and the raising of their age-limit for entrance into service from 25 to 28 ;

(12) the removal of grievances in the matter of the registry of *puduval* and *poramboke* lands ;

(13) the appointment of a Committee consisting of some members of the Sambavar community as well, to collect facts and figures about the past history of the community and publish the information so obtained ;

(14) the removal of toddy and liquor shops from the localities inhabited by Sambavars ;

(15) the organisation of a Permanent Endowment Fund for the Sambavar Sangham to be deposited with Government at a special rate of interest, say 10 per cent per annum ; and

(16) the nomination of Sambavar members to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council after consultation with the the Executive Committee of the Sambavar sangham.

Dewan's reply.—All the points that you have mentioned in your representation are engaging the attention of Government. In regard to the troubles and difficulties which, you say, your community is experiencing at the hands of the lower subordinates of the Revenue Department, there is the Land Revenue Commissioner and there are the Peishkars to appeal to. You must go and represent your grievances to them, and if your grievances are not redressed by them, you may then bring them to the notice of the Government.

143. The health of the depressed classes.

Mr. P. J. Joseph (Member, Nominated) represented that the agricultural prosperity of the State depended on the health and efficiency of the depressed classes and that, with a view to keep them in a fit state of health, the following suggestions be considered :—

(1) that a separate programme of construction of wells for the communities should be prepared and worked out by Government as early as possible ;

(2) that the depressed classes should be made to live in cottages constructed on a plan approved by Government ;

(3) that dwelling sites should be given to the homeless;

(4) that gratuitous medical relief should be arranged to be given to them at their very doors and the Medical and Sanitary Departments made responsible for the preservation of their health ;

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